



DOUGLAS COUNTY
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2009

H1N1 FLU VACCINE UPDATE

Limited amounts of H1N1 flu vaccine are arriving in Douglas County and are being sent to healthcare providers that serve the initial priority groups. Two shipments totaling 2,400 doses were received over the past two weeks, and another 1,600 doses are expected next week. Shipments of vaccine are arriving in Douglas County on a weekly basis. Vaccine is expected to be more widely available by mid-November.

In Douglas County and elsewhere, demand for vaccine exceeds supply. "Federal health officials anticipated a slow start to the distribution of vaccine and is asking the public to be patient as vaccine is produced and distributed," said Dawnelle Marshall, RN, BSN, Public Health Division Director for Douglas County.

The initial shipments of H1N1 vaccine in Douglas County are being distributed to over 50 healthcare providers that are able to vaccinate people who fall within the identified priority groups:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel
- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Anyone from 25 through 64 years of age with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system.
- In addition, Oregon Public Health has included the following as initial target populations: State and local law enforcement officers who have recurring physical contact with the public, guards in state prisons and local jails, and Active duty National Guard in the initial target populations.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent seasonal and H1N1 flu. Public Health recommends basic precautions to help slow the spread of the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Cover your cough
- Stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading the flu to others.

In addition, according to the CDC, people should only seek care in the emergency room if they are very sick. “If you have the emergency warning signs of flu sickness, that’s when you should go to the emergency room. If you get sick with flu symptoms and are at high risk of flu complications or you are concerned about your illness, call your health care provider for advice.”

More information about H1N1 vaccine, the symptoms of H1N1 flu, and what to do if you become sick is available at:

- Local news sources
- Douglas County Health Department News www.co.douglas.or.us/health
- Oregon SafeNet 1-800-SAFENET (to find vaccine in your area)
- Oregon Flu Hotline at 1-800-978-3040 or visit www.flu.oregon.gov

* * *